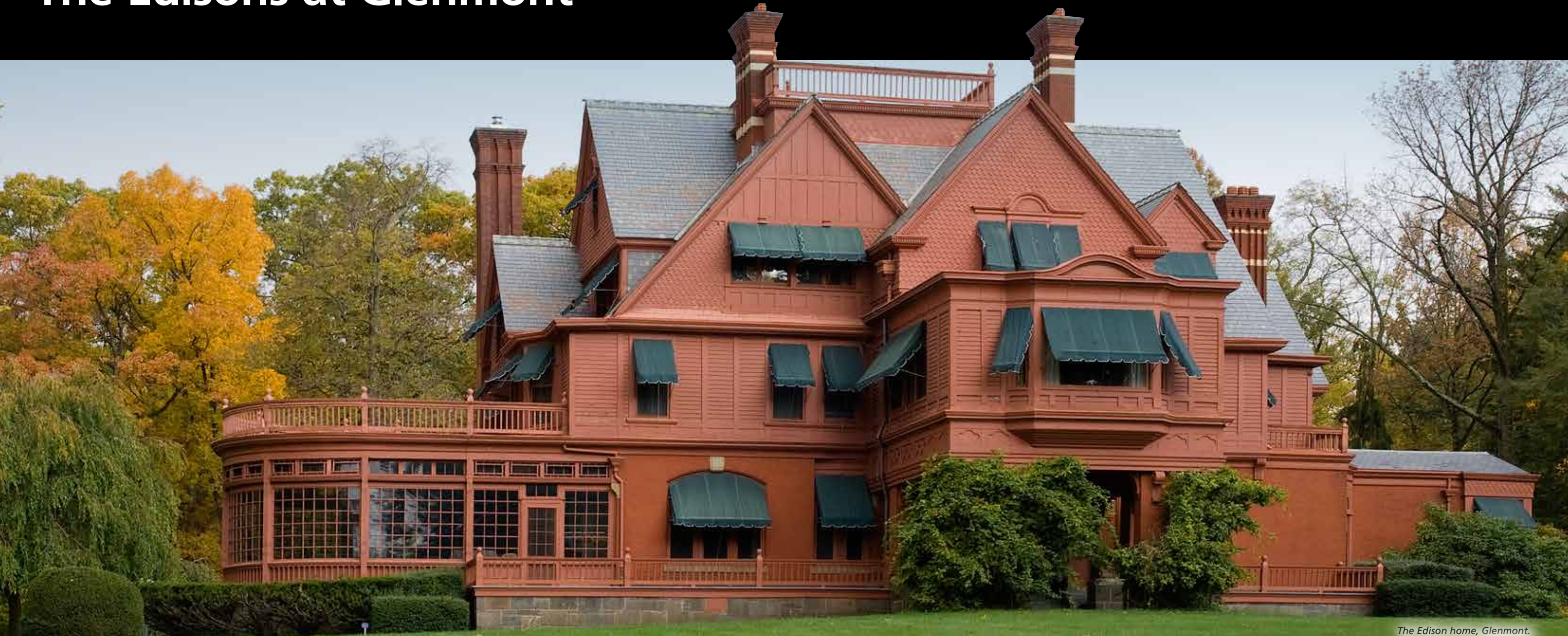


The Edisons at Glenmont



The Edison home, Glenmont.

NPS / JANE S. HANNA



Mina Miller Edison and baby, ca. 1888.



Theodore Edison taking his piano lesson with Miss Bogue, 1907.



Mina and Thomas Edison, 1908.



Family gathered on the back steps of Glenmont, 1906.



A large stained-glass window depicts Penelope awaiting Ulysses' return from the Trojan war. This subject from Greek mythology fit the Victorian notion of a woman's role as homemaker and faithful wife.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS NPS / THOMAS EDISON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK UNLESS OTHERWISE CREDITED



Thomas Edison enjoying a quiet moment on the grounds of Glenmont, 1917.



Edisons celebrate Thomas' 80th birthday, 1927.

In 1886 Thomas Edison married Mina Miller, the 20-year-old daughter of a wealthy Midwestern manufacturer. According to family lore, Edison gave his fiancée the choice of a townhouse in New York City or a home in the country. They soon settled on the Glenmont estate in Llewellyn Park, a fashionable neighborhood that advertised “Country Homes for City People.”

The 29-room red brick and wood mansion was built in 1880 by an office clerk who spared no expense (including funds embezzled from his

firm). The architect was Henry Hudson Holly, who also designed Edison's nearby lab complex. The exterior of the house exhibits the hallmarks of the American Queen Anne style, which Holly introduced to the nation: asymmetrical facade, high-pitched gables, rooftop balcony, wrap-around porch, and unified color. Interior elements include stained-glass windows (*right*), chandeliers, wainscoting, and hand-painted ceilings. Expansive grounds, a greenhouse and potting shed, barn and stables, and poured-concrete garage complete the estate.

Glenmont was very much Mina's domain; in fact Thomas sold the property to her in 1891 to avoid possible seizure by creditors. Mina referred to herself as a “Home Executive” and took those duties very seriously. She managed money, oversaw the servants, and raised the couple's three children, Madeleine, Charles, and Theodore and Edison's three children from his first marriage, Marion, Thomas Jr., and William.

Because Edison spent most of his time at the labs, Mina represented him in the community

and by hosting social events at Glenmont. Guests included Orville Wright, Helen Keller, the King of Siam, and Edison's friend Henry Ford. Products of Edison's labs and factories—phonographs, kineoscopes, and of course electric lights—were displayed throughout the rooms, as were Edison's many honorary gifts and awards.

After Thomas died in 1931, Mina married again and lived at Glenmont until her death in 1947. Mina and Thomas are buried side by side in a simple plot behind their home.

Museum and Archival Collections
Thomas Edison National Historical Park administers one of the largest museum collections in the National Park System. There are some 400,000 artifacts—everything from prototype and commercial Edison products to laboratory furnishings and equipment to the Edisons' personal possessions. Also included are 48,000 sound recordings, Edison's own library of 10,000 rare books, and the Edison archives with 60,000 photographic images and an estimated five million documents.

Planning Your Visit

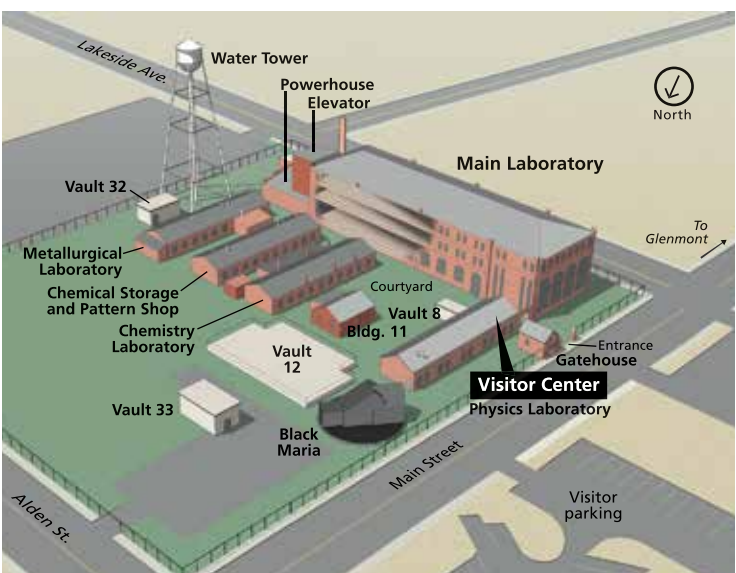
Begin your visit at the Laboratory Complex Visitor Center, which offers orientation information. Call ahead or check the park website for hours and days of operation and special events. Reservations are required for groups. The Laboratory Complex tour is self-guiding. You can see the 1877 tinfoil phonograph, the kineoscope, and many more original inventions. The Edison Home at Glenmont offers a guided tour; the estate grounds are self-guiding.

Thomas Edison National Historical Park is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks visit www.nps.gov.

Thomas Edison National Historical Park
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West Orange, NJ 07052
973-736-0550
www.nps.gov/edis

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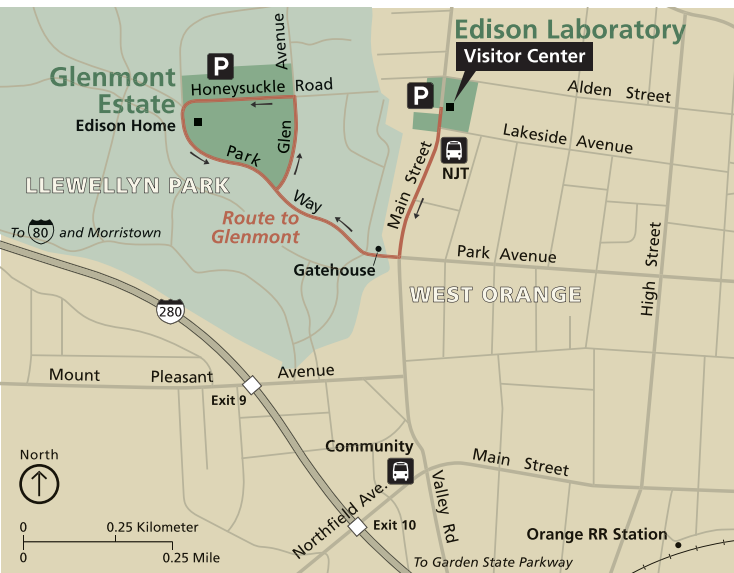
Laboratory Complex



Glenmont Estate



West Orange Area



From New Jersey Turnpike: Exit 15W to I-280. From Garden State Parkway: Exit 145 to I-280. From I-280 westbound: Exit 10. Turn right on Northfield Ave. Go about 0.75 mile to parking on left and Laboratory Complex on right. From I-280 eastbound: Exit 9. Turn left at end of ramp. At second light, left on Main St. Go about 0.5 mile to parking.

N. J. Transit: take bus #21; www.njtransit.com.